

P-IEE-104/MWO

CLAIMS

1. A seat-belt warning device comprising
a device for sensing a seat occupancy by a passenger,
a device for sensing a buckling status of a seat belt associated with the
5 seat, and
a device for outputting a warning signal,
characterized in that the device for sensing a seat occupancy by a passenger comprises an optical imaging system having an image evaluation unit.

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2. The seat-belt warning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image evaluation unit evaluates a situation image, which has been recorded by the imaging system, on the basis of the contours and/or edges contained in said image.

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3. The seat-belt warning device as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, wherein the imaging system comprises a CMOS camera and/or a CCD camera.

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4. The seat-belt warning device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the device for sensing a buckling status of a seat belt comprises a belt lock sensor.

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5. The seat-belt warning device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the device for sensing a buckling status of a seat belt is formed by the optical imaging system.

6. The seat-belt warning device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the seat belt has one or more markings which are detectable by the optical system.

7. The seat-belt warning device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the optical imaging system comprises a lighting device for illuminating the space which is to be monitored.